

MEMORANDUM

To: June Milby

From: Becky Slifkin and Victoria Freeman

Date: December 5, 2000

Subject: Preliminary results regarding provider acceptance of NCHC from the time 2 survey

The follow-up survey in our study of NC Health Choice has two questions that ask about providers' willingness to accept NC Health Choice patients. The first asked specifically about doctors:

12. Would the doctors or clinics you wanted to take your daughter to accept NC Health Choice? (circle one response)

- 1. Yes, anyone I wanted to take her to would accept NC Health Choice*
- 2. Some would accept NC Health Choice but some wouldn't*
- 3. No one would accept NC Health Choice*
- 4. I haven't tried to find a doctor or clinic for her since she got NC Health Choice*

Seventy-five percent (75%) of the parents responding to our survey said that any doctor or clinic they wanted would accept NC Health Choice. Sixteen percent (16%) said some would accept the insurance while less than 1% reported that no doctor would accept NC Health Choice. Six percent had not tried to find a doctor.

When the responses are stratified by the race of the enrolled child, we find few differences between blacks and white. Parents of Hispanic children were more likely to report not having tried to get care for their child and more likely to not have answered the question at all. It is important to keep in mind that Hispanics represent only 5% of the survey respondents and a single positive or negative response makes a larger percentage difference in the category than it does for whites or blacks.

	All Children	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Anyone accepts	75%	76%	75%	63%	71%
Some accept	16%	16%	15%	15%	22%
No one accepts	<1%	<1%	1%	0%	0%
Haven't tried	6%	6%	7%	11%	4%
No response	2%	1%	3%	11%	4%

Looking at whether the child resided in an urban or rural county, we find that residents of rural counties actually report slightly better acceptance of NC Health Choice by doctors and clinics.

	All Children	Urban	Rural
Anyone accepts	75%	70%	80%
Some accept	16%	19%	13%
No one accepts	<1%	<1%	<1%
Haven't tried	6%	8%	5%
No response	2%	2%	2%

A second question asked respondents about the willingness of dentists to accept NC Health Choice:

22. *Would the dentist (or dentists) you wanted to take your daughter to accept NC Health Choice? (circle one response)*

1. *Yes, anyone I wanted to take her to would accept NC Health Choice*
2. *Some would accept NC Health Choice but some wouldn't*
3. *No one would accept NC Health Choice*
4. *I haven't tried to find a dentist for her since she got NC Health Choice*

More respondents reported difficulty finding a dentist than finding a doctor or clinic. Only 45% of the parents responding to our survey said that any dentist they wanted to take their child to would accept NC Health Choice. Nineteen percent (19%) said some would accept the insurance and 7% reported that no dentist would accept NC Health Choice.

When the responses are stratified by the race of the enrolled child, we find that blacks are significantly *more likely* to report that any dentist they wanted to use would accept NC Health Choice.

	All Children	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Anyone accepts	45%	37%	55%	43%	53%
Some accept	19%	22%	16%	11%	24%
No one accepts	7%	10%	3%	4%	9%
Haven't tried	21%	22%	20%	22%	9%
No response	8%	9%	6%	20%	5%

There were no significant differences in perceived access to dental care with NC Health Choice between urban and rural residents.

A higher proportion of respondents failed to answer the dental access questions than failed to answer the previous question regarding access to doctors and clinics. The majority of dental non-respondents (62%) were parents of younger children who may have thought the question did not pertain to them.